

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A disposable diaper capable of being put on from either the front or the back of a wearer comprising a liquid permeable topsheet, a liquid impermeable backsheet, a liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet,

said diaper having a pair of longitudinal side portions and a pair of longitudinal end sections with each respective side portion and said each longitudinal end section having a side edge, and a crotch section located between said longitudinal end sections, and a fastening tape provided on each side edge of one of the longitudinal end section thereof,

a gather-forming sheet fixed to said topsheet in a manner parallel to the longitudinal direction of said diaper,

~~wherein,~~

~~the~~ said longitudinal end section of said diaper having the fastening tapes has having a waist elastic member provided in a waist portion thereof to form an extensible waist part, said waist elastic member being provided in its stretched state over the width of the diaper, and being fixedly sandwiched between said backsheet and said topsheet or said gather-forming sheet, and

~~the~~ said longitudinal end section having the fastening tapes has also having an extensible side part containing a plurality of elastic members formed in each of a pair of side areas at a below-waist portion thereof,

each said extensible side part being fixed in a stretched state and fixedly sandwiched between two sheets of said main body comprised of said topsheet, said backsheet and said absorbent member, and

said waist and below-waist elastic members being arranged in parallel with said diaper width direction,

wherein each said fastening tape has a basal part fixed between two sheets in a main body of the diaper, and wherein each of a plurality of elastic members that are contained in said extensible side part is disposed in the area between opposing basal parts of each said fastening tape,

the absorbent member is disposed such that its longitudinal end in the longitudinal end section having the fastening tapes is nearer to the waist portion of that section than a centerline parallel to a diaper width direction and dividing each of the extensible side parts into equal halves,

a width of the absorbent member located between the pair of extensible side parts is equal to or greater than a minimum width of the absorbent member located in the crotch section of the diaper, and a portion of said absorbent member intermediate said ends thereof being narrowed along the width direction,

two portions on opposite sides of a centerline dividing the length of the diaper in equal halves have a saturated absorption capacity ratio of from 45/55 to 55/45,

the absorbent member has a flexural stiffness of from 3 to 25 gf/50 mm as measured on a specimen cut out of the area from the longitudinal end of the absorbent member in the section having the fastening tapes to 50 mm inward in accordance with JIS K7171, and

a natural length of the waist elastic member in a state removed from the diaper is from 60 to 80% of a length of the waist elastic member as provided as part of the diaper,

the tensile load required to extend the below-waist portion in the longitudinal section having the fastening tapes to an extension ratio of 30% lower than the maximum extension ratio is higher than that required to extend the waist portion in the same section to an extension ratio 30% lower than the maximum extension ratio, and

in the longitudinal section having the fastening tapes, the length of the waist elastic member in the widthwise direction is longer than the length of the absorbent member in the widthwise direction.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein the distance from a longitudinal end of the absorbent member to a longitudinal end of the diaper in one of the longitudinal end sections thereof, and that in the other longitudinal end section is substantially equal.

5. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein the waist elastic member is an elastic strip comprising urethane foam.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the waist elastic member is disposed in the area between the two basal parts.